ARE YOU THE NEXT 'AMERICAN IDOL'?

SEACREST BRINGS AUDITIONS TO THE NORTHEAST. PAGES 16-17

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Weekend, August 1-4, 2013 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

The dog days of summer are here. It's time to curl up with a good story as you soak up the rays or hide in your air-conditioned cocoon **Read all about it.** Celebrities weigh in on their favorites.

PAGE 14

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NEWS

Top 3

Trending online at Metro.us

1 'Dress Rocky statue with T-shirt app'

2 'VIDEO: Porn sex vs. real sex explained with food'

3 Playing the Field: 'Girl gives oral sex to guy at volleyball game (NSFW)'

Local tweet

"Philly is so trashy like someone take me to the country and buy me a horse, thanks"

@Marcellallisco, on wanting to leave the City of Brotherly Love

Professor: Violent crime hardwired in male genes

Brainiac. Penn professor Adrain Raine says some men may be wired for a life of crime.

Adrian Raine has crime on the brain.

The professor of criminology and psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania has spent the last 36 years studying whether violent behavior is biological.

Raine released his book, "The Anatomy of Violence: The Biological Roots of Crime," on April 30. He spoke with Metro about his research from the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University, where he's on sabbatical.

In his book, Raine says it's practical to scan the brains of criminals or those with anti-social or violent behavior against "normal" brains and see the difference. He argues that environmental and social factors don't tell the whole story.

Raine / CANDACE DiCARLO

He discussed two new studies that have emerged since he wrote the book. The first shows men whose emotional region of the brain is undersized "are three to four times more likely to commit a violent act in the next three to four years," he said.

The second study showed that imprisoned men with reduced functioning in the front part of the brain are twice as likely for recidivism in the next three to four years.

"So far, nobody is using biological data, but these two recent studies are showing that biological data predicts over and above the usual variables we use to predict future violence," he said.

TOMMY ROWAN
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Who says you only use umbrellas when it's raining?

Dee Fass, of Philadelphia, was out in Center City Wednesday, July 31, selling sun umbrellas to passersby. It's his fourth summer in the city's historic district as an umbrella hat salesman. "Sunshine is strong. Don't get that wrong," Fass said. / RIKARD LARMA, METRO

End-of-life care

Woman faces charges of aiding suicide

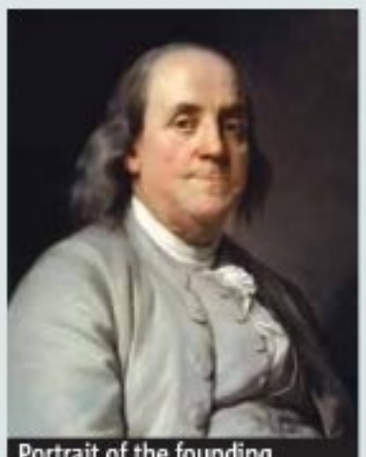
Roxborough woman Barbara Mancini, 57, will be in court Thursday, Aug. 1, to face charges of aiding suicide. Mancini, a registered nurse, was arrested Feb. 7 after allegedly handing morphine to her terminally ill father, 93-year-old Joe Yourshaw, in his Pottsville home. Yourshaw died four days later. Mancini's defense attorneys claim the woman didn't commit a crime because her father was not planning suicide but "exercising his constitutional right to relieve his pain," which is legally protected even if it advances the time of death. METRO

Resurrection

Ben Franklin museum to open in August

The Benjamin Franklin Museum is back.

After two years and more than $22 million in renovations, the underground museum, located at 3rd and Market streets, will reopen on Saturday, Aug. 24, according to the National Parks Service.



Portrait of the founding father / WIKI COMMONS

Dedicated in 1976, the Old City exhibition stands in the same spot as Franklin's original Philadelphia home.

The gallery added new artifacts, computer animations and interactive displays.

Admission will be free on both Saturday and Sunday, according to the museum's website. METRO

Bloody scene. Woman shot in head in Northern Liberties

Police said a woman was shot in the head inside her Northern Liberties apartment Tuesday night.

Officers arrived to the apartment on the 100 block of West Girard Avenue to find the victim lying in the front door area, with "blood all over," a police spokeswoman said.

The 27-year-old woman was able to tell police she answered the door, but did not recognize the man who was there. She was then forced into her apartment, where she was shot once in the head. METRO

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NJ franchisee pays to settle spirits swindle

Cheated. A TGI Fridays franchisee will pay $500,000 for serving bottom-shelf booze to patrons who paid for premium drinks.

A New Jersey TGI Fridays franchisee that swindled customers into ordering pricey top-shelf alcohol but instead served them the cheap stuff has racked up a sizable tab of its own.

Franchisee the Briad Group agreed to pay the state Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control $400,000 in penalties for the violations and $100,000 in reimbursement for investigative costs, officials announced Wednesday. The Briad Group — which was raided in May as a part of "Operation Swill" — has also agreed not to contest charges that eight of its restaurants were switching out orders of premium alcoholic beverages with less expensive booze.

"This fine should send a clear message to every bar and restaurant throughout New Jersey that customers should get what they pay for every time without exception," Acting Attorney General John Hoffman said in a statement.

"Operation Swill" was a yearlong investigation into New Jersey alcohol purveyors sparked by consumer complaints and confidential informants.

The inquiry culminated May 22 with a statewide raid targeting 29 bars and restaurants, 13 of them Briad Group-run TGI Fridays franchises. Charges were brought against eight of those TGI Fridays.

The investigation into the other establishments targeted in "Operation Swill" remains ongoing.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

By the numbers

29
Establishments were raided in "Operation Swill."

13
Of them were Briad Group-run TGI Fridays.

250
Bottles of liquor were seized for inspection from those TGI Fridays.

Building collapse

Fourth demolition hearing held Thursday

The fourth of five hearings of the special investigative committee on demolitions in Philadelphia will be held Thursday morning.

The five-member committee, appointed by City Council President Darrell Clarke, is charged with examining what went wrong during the fatal building collapse at 22nd and Market streets on June 5. The collapse killed six and injured 13. This meeting, which will focus on best practices, starts Thursday at 11 a.m. in Council Chambers, room 400, City Hall.

Former L&I Commissioners Bennett Levin (1991-1995) and Fran Burns (2008-2012) are scheduled to testify.

METRO

Hungry for justice

Local members of "Hunger for Justice" were outside of the federal courthouse Wednesday fasting in solidarity with members of the California prisoner hunger strike. They also asked for justice for Trayvon Martin. / RIKARD LARMA, METRO

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11 for 1 Serta Delrosa Super PillowTop — $399.99 Twin Set

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King Matt	$1699.99	$700	$999.99

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11 for 1 perfect sleeper Extra Firm w/ cool twist gel memory foam — $599.99 Twin Set

	Reg.	Save	Sale
Full Matt	$1279.99	$600	$679.99
Queen Matt	$1299.99	$600	$699.99
King Matt	$1699.99	$600	$1099.99

exp.8.4.13.n/a w/ other offers/coupons.

11 for 1 perfect sleeper Super PillowTop w/ cool twist gel memory foam — $699.99 Twin Set

	Reg.	Save	Sale
Full Matt	$1579.99	$800	$749.99
Queen Matt	$1599.99	$800	$799.99
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Triple shooting.
Three injured in Kensington drive-by

Three people were injured in a drive-by shooting in Kensington Wednesday.

The triple shooting happened about 2 a.m. on the 2800 block of North Lee Street, police said.

Two victims, including a 13-year-old boy, were taken by police to Temple University Hospital for treatment. Two men, ages 19 and 25, sustained single gunshot wounds to the lower parts of their legs, while the boy was shot in his right hip.

One of the men was transported by private vehicle to Episcopal Hospital, police said.

A green conversion van with tinted windows was involved in the shooting, according to police.

Police heard about 10 gunshots, prompting them to respond to Lee and Cambria streets.

Philadelphia police were to review surveillance cameras in the area to help identify suspects. METRO

Five-vehicle crash

One killed, two injured in wreck

One person was killed and two injured in a five-vehicle wreck involving three motorcycles, an SUV and a car in Upper Dublin, Montgomery County, Tuesday night.

One motorcyclist was killed in the crash, while two others were sent to area hospitals with injuries. METRO

City pools slow down, will close next weekend

It's not about funds. Parks and rec spokesman says it's all about logistics.

Boys enjoyed the water on the opening day of Sacks pool at 4th and Washington earlier this summer. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

The 70 public pools in the city will start closing around Aug. 10 this year. Unfortunately for the million annual visitors to the city's pools, this means that they will have nowhere to cool off during the dog days of August.

Alain Joinville, the public affairs officer for Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, disputes that the primary reason for shutting the pools early is financial.

"It is logistics," he explained. "The kids of the city lose interest mid-August. The city's camps close around that time. The several thousand children that come to the pools as part of the camp program will no longer be coming."

Joinville contends that staffing the pools after mid-August becomes a problem. The city requires one lifeguard for every 30 people in the pool.

"Many of our lifeguards are college students," said Joinville. "They want to return to school early."

Quoted

"The city should keep the pool open as long as possible because the 500-plus people who come here daily love swimming here."

Taaj Cousin, Lifeguard at Ridgway Pool

LAURA GOLDMAN
letters@metro.us

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Growth. US economy finds momentum in 2Q, eyes further gains

U.S. economic growth unexpectedly accelerated in the second quarter, laying a firmer foundation for the rest of the year that could bring the Federal Reserve a step closer to cutting back its monetary stimulus.

Gross domestic product grew at a 1.7 percent annual rate, the Commerce Department said on Wednesday, stepping up from the first quarter's downwardly revised 1.1 percent expansion pace.

The economic picture was further brightened by the ADP National Employment Report, which showed private employers added 200,000 jobs in July, maintaining June's pace. It offered hope the government's comprehensive employment report on Aug. 2 could show a recent run of fairly strong job gains extended to July.

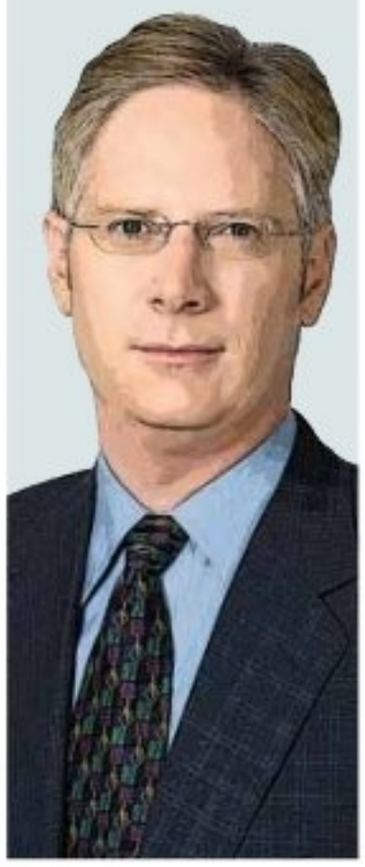
REUTERS

Revisions to earlier released GDP data, along with the report on Wednesday, cast the economy in a better light than previously, and contributed to the report's solid tenor. / GETTY IMAGES

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN



CNN=POLITICS

THE UNSTOPPABLE WEINER ROAST

I was rushing though the St. Louis Airport when a security guard said, "What's the hurry? Is Weiner finally dropping out?" We both laughed, I boarded my plane and then I started thinking about this idea that seems obvious to many voters: The former congressman is so badly damaged by his sexting scandal that he ought to resign from the New York mayor's race. And in fairly short order I came to a conclusion: If I were Anthony Weiner, I'd keep running.

I mean, why not?

Let's break it down. Sure, the polls are roasting Weiner at the moment (pun definitely intended), and while the numbers say Christine Quinn would probably trounce him if the vote were held today … um … it's not being held today. Weiner has weeks before people start pulling their levers, if you know what I mean, and in modern politics that is an eternity. Put it this way: A long shot is better than no shot, which is what he'll have if he quits.

Quoted

Weiner has weeks before people start pulling their levers, if you know what I mean, and in modern politics that is an eternity.

What about fundraising, you say? Money is always an issue in any political race, but Weiner came into this contest with almost $5 million in his war chest, and he's added to it since. He could wind up squeezed in the home stretch (OK, that pun is intended too), but for now it's more than enough to keep the ads rolling and the Twitter account cranking.

Decorum? Please. Shame is hardly the trump card it was in the 1920s, and once selfies of your "Little Lawmaker" have been emailed around the globe, what else is there to lose? I imagine there are some Germans in a Starbucks at this instant giggling over Berlinspritzer frappuccinos: "Frau Linkmeyer, look! Herr Weiner! Ha ha ha!"

Perhaps that's the bottom line. Many people think he should drop out to spare himself further humiliation, but there may be no pride to salvage here. Indeed, in modern politics the only embarrassment that seems to matter anymore comes from losing, and if he somehow avoids that, Weiner won't be tweeting. He'll be crowing.

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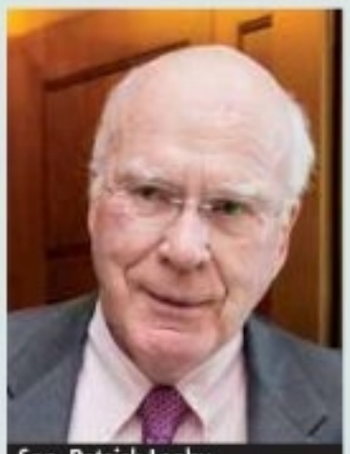
No resignations

Official says no one fired over Snowden


Sen. Patrick Leahy
GETTY IMAGES

The deputy director of the U.S. National Security Agency said on Wednesday that no one had been fired and no one had offered to resign over former security contractor Edward Snowden's ability to take large amounts of classified data from agency computers.

John Inglis said, "No," when asked at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing if anyone had been fired over the sweeping NSA surveillance programs exposed by Snowden.

Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, chairman of the committee, questioned Inglis sharply about how Snowden had managed to take the data.

Inglis said the NSA did not yet know how its safeguards had failed and expected to discover that "over weeks and months." REUTERS

Quoted

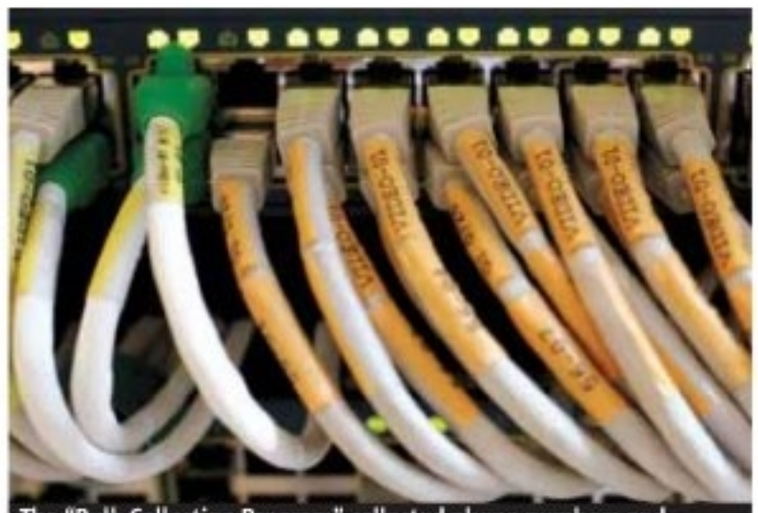
"I realize you have to have a considerable amount of trust. But don't you have people double-checking what somebody's doing?"
Leahy

Quoted

"We don't know yet where precisely they failed." Inglis

US releases documents on phone surveillance programs

Listening in.
Intelligence officials have said the programs helped thwart terror attacks.


The "Bulk Collection Program" collected phone numbers and email addresses, as well as the times and dates, but not the content, of the calls and email messages. / GETTY IMAGES

As Congress increasingly scrutinizes U.S. surveillance programs, the government on Wednesday released declassified documents on the mass collection of telephone data in a rare glimpse into the world of intelligence gathering.

The Director of National Intelligence released three declassified documents that authorized and explained the bulk collection of phone data, one of the surveillance programs revealed by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

The declassification was made in the "interest of increased transparency," the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in a statement.

Much of what is contained in the documents has already been divulged in public hearings by intelligence officials as they sought to detail what was initially disclosed by Snowden.

The documents released on Wednesday include 2009 and 2011 reports on the National Security Agency's "Bulk Collection Program," carried out under the U.S. Patriot Act.

In addition, they include an April 2013 order from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which directed communications company Verizon to hand over data from millions of Americans' telephone calls and described how that data should be stored and accessed. REUTERS

FBI request

Snowden's father says willing to fly to Moscow

The father of former U.S. spy agency contractor Edward Snowden said on Wednesday he was willing to agree to a request by the FBI to fly to Moscow to see his son, but first needed to know what the security services wanted.

Lonnie Snowden told state-owned Russian 24 television the FBI had suggested a "few weeks ago" that he should travel to Moscow to talk to his son, who faces espionage charges in the United States for exposing secret U.S. surveillance programs. REUTERS

2013 The Food Trust's farmers' markets

TUESDAY
Broad & Snyder
Broad St. and Snyder Ave., 2–7pm

Fairhill Square Park
4th St. and Lehigh Ave., 1–5pm

Frankford Transportation Center
Bustleton and Frankford Aves., 2–6pm

33rd & Diamond
Mander Playground, 33rd and Diamond Sts., 2–6pm

29th & Wharton
29th and Wharton Sts., in front of Peace Plaza, 2–6pm

22nd & Tasker
22nd and Tasker Sts. 2–6pm

West Oak Lane
Ogontz and 72nd Aves., 2–6pm

WEDNESDAY
Broad & South
Broad and South Sts., 2–7pm

Cliveden Park
Chew Ave. and Johnson St., 2–6pm

58th & Chester
58th St. and Chester Ave., 2–6pm

52nd & Haverford
52nd St. and Haverford Ave., 1–5pm

THURSDAY
Cecil B. Moore
Cecil B. Moore Ave., between Broad and 13th Sts., 2–6pm

Clark Park
43rd St. and Baltimore Ave., 3–7pm

Fairmount
22nd St. and Fairmount Ave., 3–7pm

Liberty Lands Park NEW!
3rd St., between Poplar and George Sts., 3–7pm

Olney Transportation Center
Broad St. and Olney Ave., 2–6pm

Oxford Circle
Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, 900 East Howell St., 2–6pm

FRIDAY
Germantown
Germantown Ave. and Walnut Ln., in front of the Historic Wyck House 2–6pm

52nd & Haverford
52nd St. and Haverford Ave., 1–5pm

SATURDAY
Clark Park
43rd St. and Baltimore Ave., 10am–2pm

Hunting Park
West Hunting Park Ave. and Old York Rd., 10am–2pm

Overbrook
Lancaster and City Aves., at the Overbrook Presbyterian Church 9am–1pm

SUNDAY
Headhouse
2nd and Lombard Sts., 10am–2pm

More market info at foodtrustmarkets.org

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Boston. Prisoner shoots deputy sheriff during hospital visit

A deputy sheriff was shot in the leg and a prisoner he had been transporting to a Boston hospital for treatment was in critical condition on Wednesday after the prisoner grabbed for the deputy's gun and fired, Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said.

The shooting occurred when two deputies who had transported the prisoner to Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary removed his handcuffs after bringing him to the emergency room, Davis said.

"The two individuals fell to the floor, a round was fired and one of the deputy sheriffs suffered a gunshot wound to the leg," Davis told reporters outside the hospital where the incident occurred.

The second deputy shot the prisoner at close range, Davis said. REUTERS

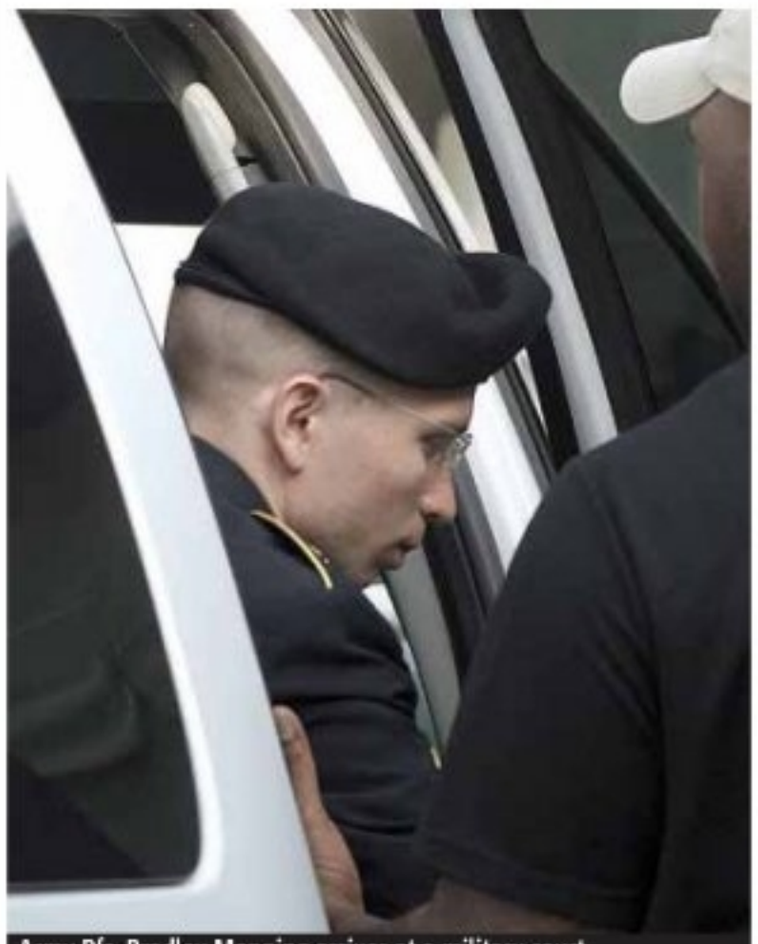
Robbery

O.J. Simpson granted parole in Nevada on some charges

O.J. Simpson was granted parole on several charges related to his role in a robbery of sports memorabilia dealers at a Las Vegas hotel, but he will remain in prison at least until 2017 on other charges.

In 2008, Simpson was sentenced up to 33 years in prison in the Las Vegas case, but that sentence could be reduced if he wins future parole hearings and is given credit for good behavior. REUTERS

Manning damage falls short of worst US fears



Army Pfc. Bradley Manning arrives at a military court facility for the first day of the sentencing phase of his trial at Fort Meade, Md., on July 31. / GETTY IMAGES

Leaks. The Army private was cleared in court of the most serious charges against him.

Accused of the nation's biggest-ever security leak, Bradley Manning was vilified by the government for causing irreparable damage to American national interests. In retrospect, the harm he caused seems to have been overplayed.

A military judge cleared Manning on Tuesday of the most serious charge against him — aiding the enemy — in a verdict that indicated the soldier's secrecy violations, while criminal, were not as dire as prosecutors had alleged.

Manning's revelations to WikiLeaks, including hundreds of thousands of U.S. diplomatic cables and raw intelligence reports from the Iraqi and Afghan battlefields, violated his military oath and "put real lives and real careers at risk," said former State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley.

But the strategic damage to the United States — to its reputation and its ability to work with allies and conduct diplomacy — "was transitory," said Crowley, who resigned in 2011 after publicly criticizing the Pentagon's treatment of Manning in a military prison. REUTERS

Guilty

19

Military judge, Col. Denise Lind, found Manning guilty on 19 counts, including five espionage charges.

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CULTURE

What they're reading

CURTIS SITTENFELD: I loved Susanna Daniel's "Sea Creatures," about a young mother who accepts an unusual job for an eccentric artist.

ANA ORTIZ: I'm currently reading a book called "Beautiful Ruins." Someone gave it to me on the airplane, believe it or not, and I really like it. ... But the book that I'm going absolutely positively to read next is Junot Diaz's new book — it's a book of short stories.

"I'm reading a monster of a book, which is really a struggle because my time to read is when I get into bed, and in the evening when I put my daughter to bed and have dinner, at which point I'm shattered. It's '2666' by Roberto Bolano."

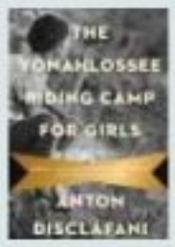
Sienna Miller

Your summer reading list

Whether you're spending your August lazing at the beach or, like the rest of us, trying to find the best spot on the couch to fully enjoy the air conditioner, a book is the perfect partner. We've taken the liberty of choosing a few titles for the dog days of August — pick up one of these to keep you company this month.

For a brisk, indulgent read:

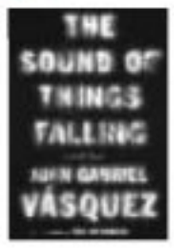
- The cover of **"The Widow Waltz"** by Sally Koslow — a woman staring at the surf — screams beach read. But the book is a different twist on the typical female-takes-on-the-world-in-heels story. Georgia Waltz's beloved husband, Ben, drops dead while jogging in Central Park, and their lavish life drips away as she discovers he left them penniless. **ALISON BOWEN**



- **"The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls,"** a debut novel by Anton DiSclafani, takes place in 1930, on the cusp of the Great Depression. After a mysterious but disastrous family scandal, teenager Thea is sent away to a North Carolina camp filled with teen girls, some whose families' affluent fortunes are crumbling, some experiencing love and lust for the first time, some finding their fit in a changing society. **AB**

- **"The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P."** is a different kind of "it" book. Adelle Waldman's debut is a savvy, infinitely readable look into Nate P. — a 30-something, overeducated, slightly narcissistic New Yorker who hops from one smart, savvy woman to the next while happily sitting on his first book advance. It is a thing of infuriating beauty. **DOROTHY ROBINSON**

For an engaging, daring tale

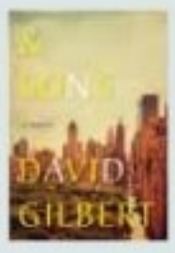


- Colombian writer Juan Gabriel Vasquez delves into his home country's history in **"The Sound of Things Falling,"** examining how the drug trade affected Colombians. Lawyer Antonio Yammara is reading about a hippo that escaped from drug kingpin Pablo Escobar's zoo and is transported back to when Escobar's cartel violence spilled over into everyday lives throughout the country, including a friend's assassination that Antonio witnessed. **AB**

- **"Submergence"** begins by plunging readers into a hellish, terrifying darkness — Brit James More has been captured by al Qaeda in Somalia. The novel tells of his love story with Danielle Flinders, a biomathematician studying life in the far-flung corners of the world. Scottish writer J.M. Ledgard's part love story, part spy novel is underscored by his skills as a writer for The Economist. **JULIA FURLAN**

- Sure, author Peter Stenson's debut novel follows a group of tweakers during a zombie apocalypse, but **"Fiend"** is much more. Stenson has a gift for capturing the drug-fueled anxiety that comes with meth abuse (he is a former user, now clean). Couple that with fleeing from mobs of flesh-eating creatures, and you have a heart-pounding summer read. **DR**

For a book to bring up at cocktail parties



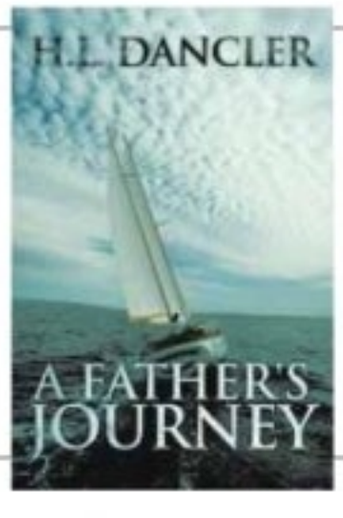
- Receiving buzz this summer is David Gilbert's **"& Sons,"** a tale of — you guessed it — a man and his sons. This family saga is set in the Upper East Side, where A.N. Dyer, eulogizing his best friend, becomes concerned with his own legacy. The book follows his three sons in New York, all confronting their own issues during a weeklong reunion. **AB**

- **"Looking for Palestine: Growing Up Confused in an Arab-American Family,"** may have the kind of name that college students will immediately recognize — her father, Edward Said, is a regular on syllabi across the country. Her memoir of growing up amid literary luminaries and cultural influencers the world over is told in the voice of a self-confessed confused child looking for meaning. **JF**

- Much-discussed author Tao Lin returns with **"Taipei,"** which opens with Paul, a Brooklyn writer navigating the city's literary scenes and soon off on his own book tour, which leads him to the Taiwanese capital. Dipping into themes of purposeless adulthood, drug use and Internet-documented lives, the book is a slice of generational living. Lin called the book his "magnum opus," and he has acknowledged much was sourced from his own life experiences. **AB**

For doing a good deed

Author H.L. Dancler, a Massachusetts local, is donating all of the proceeds from his debut novel, "A Father's Journey," to The One Fund Boston. Anyone buying the book until Dec. 31 will know that 100 percent goes to the fund, he promises. The book is the first in a two-part series about a documentarian whose long absences from his Newport home affect his life. Dancler himself almost went to the marathon, but was visiting his youngest son instead.



What they're reading

Lauren Weisberger:
"The Interestings" by Meg Wolitzer. I'm really loving it.

Jason Statham:
I'm reading a book called "Viva La Madness," by J.J. Connolly. He wrote "Layer Cake," which was made into a movie with Danny Craig. It's a great book. I think he's a brilliant crime writer. It's very good, very funny. It's a very witty book, brilliant.

Wayne Knight:
Currently I'm reading "Going Clear," a book [by Lawrence Wright] on L. Ron Hubbard, while belatedly reading the Steve Jobs book. I'm just kind of into people who are powerful people that not everybody likes. [Laughs] I'm trying to form a cult of personality — I want a reality-distortion field that works for me.

"Right now I'm reading 'Ancient Light' by John Banville and 'A Visit from the Goon Squad' by Jennifer Egan. Also, my nanny is currently writing a book about parenting, so I'm also reading that."

Debra Messing

There's nothing innocent about this sculpture

Relief. Jedediah Morfit admits he has a "pretty dark worldview."

At first glance, Jedediah Morfit's intricate narrative reliefs have an innocent, whimsical quality about them. The cartoonish characters — articulated with elegant white silhouettes of plaster — feel like a postmodern, graphic take on Josiah Wedgwood reliefs. But nothing in Morfit's world is that simple. If viewers choose to linger, they'll soon discover a landscape pulsating with the paralyzing anxiety of our age.

"I think I have some unconscious urge to disguise the underlying angst in the work by expressing it with this very decorative, pretty surface," says Morfit, a professor of sculpture at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. But then he stops himself and laughs: "How very WASP-y of me! I guess I have a pretty dark worldview, but somehow I was taught not to burden others with it?"

In one of Morfit's large-scale reliefs, a female figure walks across a sea of human carnage and detritus, protecting her bounty with a Wesson .357. Somehow Morfit has managed to depict this scene with his signature playful flair. But look a little closer: The figure — "Mad Meg" — is actually grafted from a 16th century Pieter Bruegel painting.

"The figures in my pieces are all informed by desire. Everything is stealing or trying to grab from something else," explains Morfit. "For me, I see the increased stratification between the rich and poor in this country as a kind of return to Bruegel's era. It's not something new. We've been here before."

The artist's signature style, plus flying apes, are on display in his work "Ad Infinitum." / PROVIDED

If you go

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Quoted

"I think I have some unconscious urge to disguise the underlying angst in the work by expressing it with this very decorative, pretty surface."
Mofit

Interactive

Spontaneous play

At Jedediah Morfit's latest exhibition, opening tomorrow night at the Sculpture Gym, viewers will be encouraged to create their very own reliefs.

Morfit will affix magnets to some of his distinctive characters and place them on a stainless steel wall — an ever-morphing Morfit of your own creation.

"This is a very labor-intensive project. People think of it as being very deliberate, which it is in some respects. But it can be very playful and spontaneous," the artist says. "I wanted to give viewers access to the spontaneous play that I experience when I put these things together."

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‘IDOL’ PROMISES

Thousands lined up earlier this month at the EnergySolutions Arena in Atlanta for a chance to become the next American Idol. / ANNETTE BROWN/FOX

Wait and sing. Ryan Seacrest and company take to the Northeast this weekend, but will a show that’s become so embattled get a crowd? Of course!

Twelve seasons of “American Idol” have shown that even if you beat the odds and win the competition, it’s hardly a guarantee of success within the music industry. The direct link to fame that the show seemed to initially provide has eroded, and the number of winners who fail to maintain success after their initial splashes is stifling. But that won’t stop thousands of hopefuls from making the trip to Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass. — the only audition in the Northeast — on Friday and Saturday.

Neither will the fact that this past season was “American Idol”’s worst rated since the show began airing in 2002. In fact, it’s doubtful that any of the difficulties that the show is facing will impact anybody who planned to set up camp outside of the stadium to audition for a group of strangers. (They don’t sing for the celebrity judges you see on TV in the first few rounds.)

Let’s review the current woes of the show: The judges’ table will feature only one returning judge after feuding divas Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj and veteran Randy Jackson announced that they won’t do another season. Executive producer Nigel Lythgoe was fired in June. And most recently, 10 former contestants filed a suit against senior executives last week, claiming that the show exploited the criminal backgrounds of African-American contestants to “publicly humiliate — with maximum fanfare — virtually every top-ranking black ‘American Idol’ contestant who had a record of arrest.” It’s doubtful that even this hint of public scandal will deter anybody who was already planning to audition this weekend.

Patrick Lynn, senior supervising producer of “American Idol,” says he isn’t able to comment on the lawsuit, but the exits and the ratings are of no concern to him.

“The ratings were up and down,” he says, before pointing out, “the ratings for us were still up and down within the Top 10 [most viewed shows each week] — the Top 5 for us, even. So people can say

Patrick Lynn: Running the numbers

8,000

“We saw 8,000 people in Detroit. I’m not really sure about exact numbers, but maybe 3,000 in the other cities. There is a pretty good chunk of people trying out. One of the things that’s good is that people understand you don’t have to be first in line all the time, so that’s why we are literally open for 36 hours. ... Out of 3,000 to 6,000 people, how many are going to actually get through? Literally 300, maybe 400 get through for the next round, which is the executive producer round, and then they make the decision if it’s going to fit for TV. The [celebrity] judges see more people than you’d think though. They see 120 people and we do 60 a day. Then maybe 15 people [from each city] actually make it on the show.”

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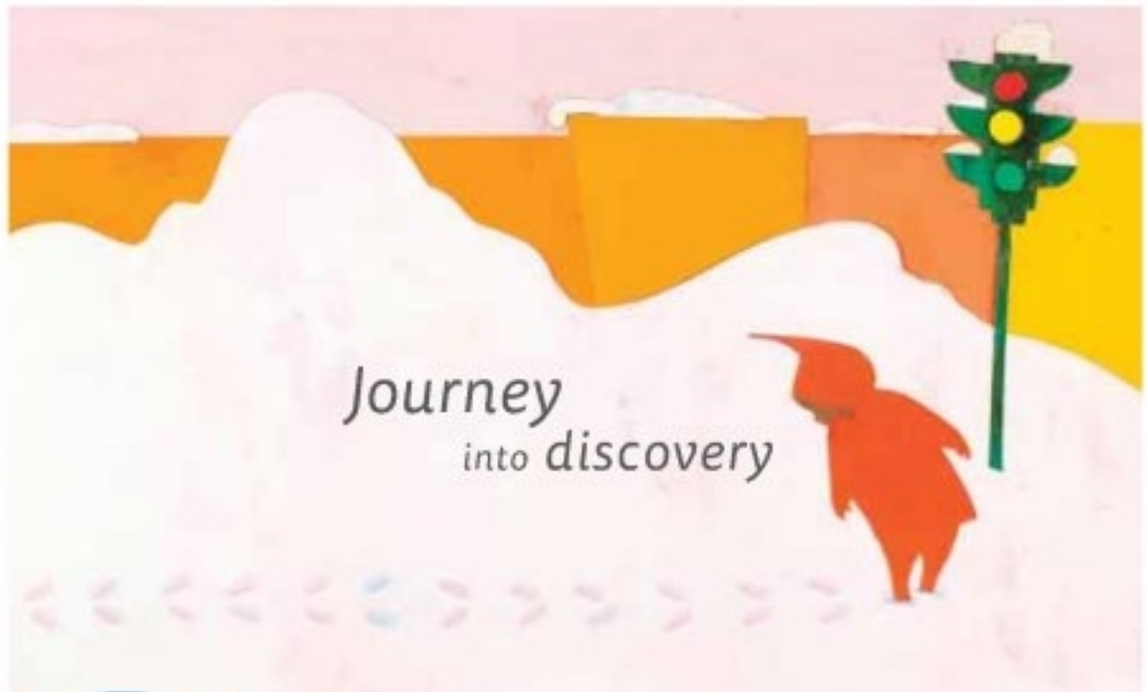

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The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats is organized by The Jewish Museum, New York, from the collection of the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, The University of Southern Mississippi. The exhibition was funded at The Jewish Museum through a generous grant from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation. Additional support was provided by the Joseph Alexander Foundation, the Alfred J. Grunebaum Memorial Fund, and the Winnick Family Foundation.

Image: Detail from Ezra Jack Keats, “Crunch, crunch, crunch, his feet sank into the snow.” Final illustration for The Snowy Day, 1962. Collage and paint on board. Ezra Jack Keats Papers, de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi. Copyright Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

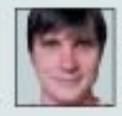
Quoted

"I can only speak for myself when I say that the 'Idol' platform from which I came has allowed me to be able to work almost a decade in entertainment." Taylor Hicks

And I am telling you I'm not going ...

You're doing it wrong, America!

Even the losers get lucky sometimes. Jennifer Hudson placed seventh in the third season of "Idol." Not winning probably doesn't bother her much now. She's the only "Idol" alum to win an Academy Award and a Grammy. Adam Lambert, Katharine McPhee, Chris Daughtry and Clay Aiken are other contestants who didn't win, but have found success after their "Idol" tenure, arguably even more success than the winners of their respective seasons.



PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

what they want to say, but you know what? We're still a good show. People still like us. They love being a part of 'American Idol' and that's why they turn on."

Lynn has been with "Idol" since the show's inception, starting out as an associate producer. The landscape for finding talent is more densely populated than it was in 2002. In addition to the rise of self-uploading technology on sites like YouTube, talent competitions like NBC's "The Voice" and "America's Got Talent" followed in the wake of "Idol's" success. This means it's more difficult for the talent to find an audience, no matter which show they choose.

Season 5 winner Taylor Hicks tells Metro that he is happy to have won when he did, because while "Idol" itself is competitive, now that the show has to compete with other competitions, it's even more of a challenge.

"I think it is harder because the marketplace is saturated with similar shows," he says. "You have to work extremely hard at creating, making and sustaining your name. The show's gonna give you a name, but in this day and age, sustaining it is very tough."

But Lynn says what those other shows don't have is a legacy.

"The lucky thing that we have going for us is that there are people that have grown up with 'American Idol.' They don't know television without it," he says. "I have people telling me, especially 15-year-olds, [how excited they are] that they're finally old enough to try out."

Not everybody in the music industry seems to think this is a good thing.

In March, Dave Grohl told the in-flight magazine Delta Sky that he thought shows like "Idol" and "The Voice" were "destroying the next generation of musicians." His quote instantly went viral.

"I think about kids watching a TV show like 'American Idol' or 'The Voice,' then they think, 'Oh, OK, that's how you become a musician, you stand in line for eight f—ing hours with 800 people at a convention center and then you sing your heart out for someone and then they tell you it's not f—ing good enough,'" he ranted.

He then encouraged aspiring musicians to buy crappy instruments and take time to be bad at playing, but to have a good time doing so with friends, saying that's what happened with Nirvana.

A televised reality competition doesn't prepare musicians for the grimy side of business that they would see firsthand, slugging it out in the clubs and coming up through the traditional channels.

Hicks cautions anybody going out for a show like "Idol" now: "There's show and there's show business. Doing the show and performing is the easy part. The actual business of performing is a completely different monster, and I think nowadays you really have to be especially intuitive and smart about both of them or you'll get taken for the proverbial ride."

Lynn says watching firsthand as stars graduate from "Idol" to the music industry at large has been fascinating.

"Some winners become Carrie Underwood, and some become Lee DeWyze," he says, before clarifying that DeWyze shouldn't be deemed a failure because he hasn't had the mega success that Underwood has.

"Not everybody is going to be a superstar," he says, "but they're all Idols."

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Get your Phreak on

LGBT. There's no script to follow at the third annual Phreak N' Queer.

Messapotamia Lefae will shine bright in the Phreak N' Knnnky cabaret. / TARA LESSARD

You never know what you're going to get at the city's annual Phreak N' Queer Music and Arts Festival. But chances are it's going to be something that you aren't seeing anywhere else.

Take, for instance, the fest's Phreak N' Knnnky cabaret Friday at XO Lounge on South Street. Wurli and His Ragtag Vintage Orchestra, Brooks Banker, Lance Pawling and more are set to perform.

"It's a little naughtier than other cabarets," says festival co-organizer Kate Gormley.

So what makes it more naughty than nice?

"Some of the organizers are playing their cards close to their chest," Gormley says. "I can't tell you. I'm not in on all of their secrets."

But there's a serious side to the fun at the third annual Phreak N' Queer fest. The event takes place Thursday through Sunday at several Philly locales, safe and accepting spaces where queer and transgender artists and friends can, well, get their Phreak on.

"We provide spaces so that performers can really take some risks and try something new and know they will be supported in whatever they'll be doing," Gormley says. "We see people trying out different themes and then there will be different collaborations between artists, which makes for an interesting show.

"They know the audiences will support the risks they're taking and they don't have to play it down or dumb it down to play to a certain crowd or follow a script," she adds.

More than 50 musicians, visual artists, spoken word poets and others are slated to perform. Festivities kick off with Trash Landing, the opening party, Thursday night at The Rotunda in University City. The Homo Rama music night — featuring everything from punk, to hip-hop, to electro — happens at MilkBoy on 11th and Chestnut on Saturday, and the newly revamped Dolphin Tavern will host the closing party Sunday, with DJ Robert Drake spinning.

All are invited, Phreaky or not.

"Whoever you are, you are welcome to come," says co-organizer Sara Sherr. "You don't have to be LGBT. You're going to hear something you've never heard before."

If you go

Phreak N' Queer Music and Arts Festival

Aug. 1-4
Various locations
Prices vary
phreaknqueerfestival.wordpress.com

CHRIS JORDAN
letters@metro.us

TV watch list

We like Dexter best when he's exacting revenge. / SHOWTIME

AWARDS SHOW

'2013 Young Hollywood Awards'

They're broadcasting the 15th annual celebration of people with way too much money and way too much fame at way too young an age live from Santa Monica. No, we're not jealous. **THURSDAY, 8 P.M., CW**

GAME SHOW

'Hollywood Game Night'

A random assortment of celebrities, including that lunatic Tom Arnold, compete on trivia centered on cat-themed movie moments. It should be ... weird. **THURSDAY, 10 P.M., NBC**

DRAMA

'Dexter'

Tonight, Dex visits a young psychopath to determine if he's a good fit for his table. We're hoping he is — it's been a minute since we got to watch him slice and dice someone. **SUNDAY, 9 P.M., SHO**

DRAMA

'The Newsroom'

We're still not sure if we're entirely huge fans of "The Newsroom" in general — it's a bit heavy-handed and self-important for our taste. But we are enjoying their recount of the beginning of the Occupy movement. Remember when that was a thing? **SUNDAY, 10 P.M., HBO**

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Your kids (and you) deserve better

Family film. The second in the "Smurfs" movie franchise is no good for anyone.

Brace yourself: This may be the most fun you have sitting through "The Smurfs 2." / SONY PICTURES ANIMATION

There is nothing positive to say about "The Smurfs 2." The pointless sequel to the even-more-pointless 2011 original is exhausting and pitiful, an hour and 45 minutes of shameless product placement, shoddy filmmaking and talented people shedding themselves of their dignity.

This time, the mission is to save Smurfette (Katy Perry, sounding like she downed a roll of Sweet Tarts). Shes been kidnapped by evil Gargamel (Hank Azaria) in the hopes of snagging the secret formula for "Smurf essence."

The late, great Jonathan Winters, sadly, files his final role as Papa Smurf.

From the people behind the scenes to those in front of the lens to the families who'll most likely flock to theaters to see this, "The Smurfs 2" isn't a good choice for anybody.

Review

'The Smurfs 2'

Director: Raja Gosnell

Voices: Jonathan Winters, Katy Perry

Rating: PG

CRAIG D. LINDSEY
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Celebrating black cinema at BlackStar

Diaspora. The film fest is twice as big this year — and Spike Lee is coming.

What's the appeal of the BlackStar Film Festival?

It can provide an outlet for a young Philly filmmaker who saw the loss of a culture in Ethiopia and drew some parallels to home. Sosena Solomon's "Merkato" looks at the demise of a market in Ethiopia due to the construction of strip malls and parking lots.

"I fell in love with this flea market and then I began to see the transition of the place, and how things were happening rapidly," says Solomon, 28, a native of Kenya. "I began to see long, tall buildings that in my opinion didn't really belong there. I really wanted to document this way of life before it actually deteriorated. In so many ways, it's a universal story, and it's important for us who have access to the stories to document the universal connections."

"Merkato" explores the lives of four merchants who sell their wares in an open-air Ethiopian market.
BLACKSTAR FILM FESTIVAL

The BlackStar Film Festival, now in its second year, seeks to draw out the global connections of the African diaspora. The fest, founded by Philly's Maori Karmael Holmes, has doubled in size to about 75 films this year.

The home base is International House but there are also events in several other venues.

"Philadelphia is a great incubator for a festival like BlackStar," says the festival's Lauren Holland. "The city is so supportive of independent art."

Film icon Spike Lee will be featured on the "By Any Means Necessary: Producing Independent Film" panel, moderated by Nzinga Kadalie Kemp, tomorrow morning at International House.

This year's highlights also include the 1984 sci-fi cult hit "The Brother From Another Planet" shown with a new live score, and a screening of "Yelling To The Sky" with a Q&A featuring actor Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter of The Roots and composer Zakee Kuduro.

If you go

BlackStar Film Festival

Aug. 1-4
- **International House: 3701 Chestnut St.**
- **Drexel University: 33rd and Chestnut**
- **Barnes Foundation: 2025 Ben Franklin Pkwy.**
- **Johnny Brenda's: 1201 Frankford Ave.**

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www.blackstarfest.org

CHRIS JORDAN
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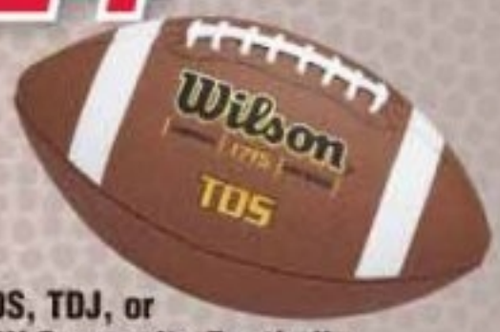

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Real-life buds Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg team up for the thriller-comedy "2 Guns." / PATTI PERRET

Why so serious?

Interview. Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg talk about being funny in "2 Guns."

Denzel Washington is funny. He just doesn't do funny movies. People have told him how good he is with a joke. He agrees and he doesn't. "I'm quick. But being funny on purpose, take after take — I don't know. It's new territory." Indeed, he hasn't done a full-on funny film since the ghost comedy "Heart Condition," opposite Bob Hoskins in 1990.

"2 Guns" isn't a full-on comedy. It's a '70s-style throwback thriller, starring he and Mark Wahlberg as undercover government agents embroiled in the pursuit of a booty of stolen cash. But he and Wahlberg, longtime friends finally working together, have great chemistry, and the tone of the film allows them to goof around in between action scenes.

"Especially coming off 'Flight,'" Washington says, "I was looking to do something where I had more fun." Wahlberg had already been attached to the project, which was a big selling point for him. "Mark is not just funny, but he has a warmth and a heart."

Not that he wanted to go that far. "I'm not ready to be spanked yet, not right out of the gate" he says, alluding to Wahlberg's turn in "Ted." "But he helped free me up, to not worry about being silly."

Wahlberg was happy it wasn't the traditional kind of buddy comedy. "Usually they'll take the comedy guy and put him with the straight guy. We didn't want to do that," Wahlberg explains. "We felt like the two had to be really formidable opponents, to earn that camaraderie, to earn that trust in one another."

Asked how they handle comedy or drama, Wahlberg says there's little difference. "I approach everything the same: I try to make it as real as possible," he explains. "If you're going to make people laugh or cry, it's the same thing. But if I start doing pratfalls, someone please pull the plug."

Washington has his own methods. "I try to bring my own personality to the parts, some kind of personal connection," he explains. "That way, the audience can maybe believe it a bit more."

When asked which role is closest to the real him, he can't help but joke. "'Training Day.' That's who I am. That's the real Denzel."

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Straight-faced

On Trayvon Martin

"2 Guns" does touch on real issues, including crooked government agencies, border relations and immigration. Washington maintains it's not that serious.

"I saw 'Fruitvale Station' last night. It ain't that," he says. "I was talking to my oldest daughter, and she said that the Zimmerman trial was the first time she's dealt with these issues in her life. She was too young for Rodney King. For her generation, this is one of the first big civil rights moments."

Fake credits

Don't trust the Internet Movie Database

Washington's IMDb page is riddled with films he wasn't in. "They have my first movie being 'Death Wish.' I wasn't even an actor then," he says, laughing. "It says I was an 'Alley Thug.' In 1974 I actually was an alley thug."

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Comic thriller.
Denzel and Marky Mark are oddly compelling buddies in "2 Guns."

SLEAZY DOES IT

Bill Paxton (opposite Denzel Washington) is memorably terrifying in "2 Guns." / PATTI PERRET

Like nearly everything that gets cranked out as summer movie entertainment these days, "2 Guns" is based on a comic book. But it's not that kind of comic. Steven Grant's source is a grounded, albeit still ridiculous, look at two undercover agents. It's not a stylish "Sin City" noir clone; Grant also writes comics spun from "CSI." The splashy, $90 million film version has less in common with anything currently in multiplexes, but plenty to do with the grim, sleazy, cheerfully pessimistic films Hollywood regularly and improbably cranked out during the 1970s. It's not one of those films itself, but it's closer than we deserve.

Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg play members of different agencies involved in taking down a Mexican drug cartel. Neither initially knows the other is undercover. One of the first acts in the film is for Wahlberg to shoot off the heads of various chickens buried up to their necks in dirt — which is how Sam Peckinpah's great "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid" opens. Other gratuitous nods to the whiskey-soaked director abound, as do ones to "Charley Varrick," a crime saga led by a taciturn, cold-blooded Walter Matthau.

If the script, by "Brotherhood" creator Blake Masters, intimately understands these films and their world-weary vision, it doesn't feel compelled to recreate them completely. Our leads get embroiled in the convoluted pursuit of stolen bank money, which is desired by the Navy (led by James Marsden), the CIA (led by Bill Paxton) and the south-of-the-border cartel (led by Edward James Olmos). Olmos' character is the most exhausted, tired of being jerked around by his smug connections up north. But Paxton is the scariest. Never speaking above a whisper, and allowing his Louisiana-bred words to flow like molasses, he's not above murder, often by way of Russian Roulette focused on one's crotch.

But the tone, while weathered, is goofy. This is a comedy with no straight man. Washington and Wahlberg prove an oddly compelling duo, swapping quips and engaging in macho one-upmanship. Icelandic director Baltasar Kormakur ("Contraband") adopts a style that's part Walter Hill — all grizzled behavior and Ry Cooder-esque slide guitar scoring — and part Richard Lester. One grisly interrogation is amusingly set in a garage, where the sensor keeps turning off the light, forcing our leads to awkwardly swat around their arms to get it back on. The treatment of government agencies is incredibly cynical, even for a '70s throwback film. But the sense of humor tempers that. And though it falls apart during the climax, one has to love where the gobs of money — half the film's budget, mind you — ultimately wind up.

MATT PRIGGE
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Review

'2 Guns'

- **Director:** Baltasar Kormakur
- **Stars:** Denzel Washington, Mark Wahlberg
- **Rating:** R

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The killers inside them

Documentary. This look at aging genocidal maniacs will make you hate humanity.

The documentary "The Act of Killing" features musical numbers.
DRAFTHOUSE FILMS

Review

'The Act of Killing'

Director: Joshua Oppenheimer

Genre: Documentary

Rating: NR

Examinations of genocide tend to focus on the victims. "The Act of Killing," a legitimately shocking and unsettling experimental documentary, not only dwells on the killers, but on those who were never punished. Between 1965 and 1966, an estimated half million communists and liberals died in the wake of a failed coup in Indonesia. The government rounded up a coterie of surly psychopaths and set them up as an actual death squad. These men are still alive, still around and casually remorseless, as they've never been given a good reason to feel bad about their actions. They even boast about strangling victims, cutting off heads and other things that would turn the ordinary stomach.

How on earth does one portray these monsters without falling back on simple self-righteousness? American documentarian Joshua Oppenheimer found a way — he gains their confidence. They, in turn, act like a boy's club of overgrown children who were never taught the absolute basics of human decency. When one of them, Anwar, whose body count tops 1,000, is led by the filmmakers to finally empathize with his victims, one of the more manly assassins scolds him, saying, "You feel horrified because your mind is weak."

Oppenheimer's flashiest move is to get them to recreate their crimes — not straight-up, but in gaudy movie form. They recreate gangster films, westerns, even musicals, where playvictims are brutally assassinated. Oppenheimer doesn't contextualize the historical events, which is, perversely, a good thing: It allows us to wallow in the subjects' cloistered worldview. Going from nightmare to dark comedy and back again, it's a testament to how when the baddies win, evil simply becomes the norm.

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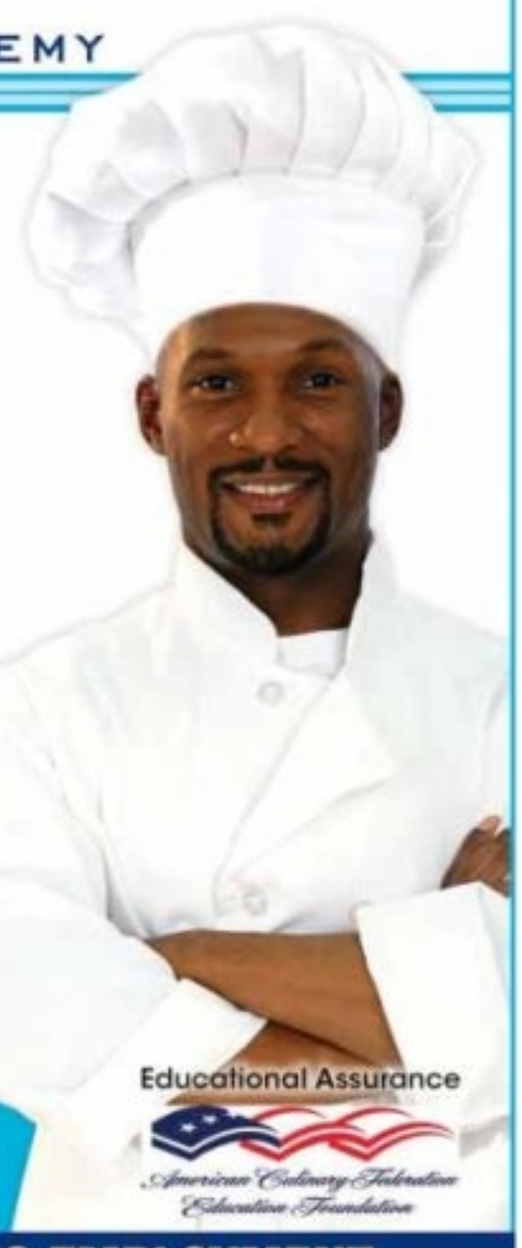
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THE WORD

Alexandra Cavallo takes on the world of gossip.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
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1 Stephanie Tanner is not back in rehab

How rude! That's probably what Jodi Sweetin (aka Stephanie Tanner) is saying to all the nosy journos going around writing that she's in rehab again, because former child stars try to use their characters' key catchphrases as often as possible — it helps remind people that they were once pretty famous and that the mess they've since made of their adult lives is no big deal.

Jokes aside, the story of Sweetin's life post-"Full House" is actually a sad one. While the Olsen twins went on to rule the world from behind hundreds of layers of draped clothing and giant Starbucks cups, and Candace Cameron went on to find God, Sweetin (formerly the most adorable cast member of "Full House," and that includes John Stamos) went on to become a meth addict and a three-time divorcee. But she cleaned up her act, admirably, and seemed to be on the right track, working as a counselor at a rehab facility.

Jodi Sweetin played Stephanie Tanner on "Full House." GETTY IMAGES

Which is why it really is pretty rude that she's now battling rumors (she's claiming they are 100 percent unfounded) that she, herself, is back on meth and back in rehab. Give the girl a break, you guys — the only cast member who fared worse after "Full House" called it quits is Dave Coulier (Uncle Joey). That guy sucked.

Justin Bieber got turned away at a club. / WIREIMAGE

2 Bieber is not up in da club

Oh man, I almost feel sorry for Justin Bieber. Almost. But then I think about what a little douche that twerp is, and all the money he's probably got piled up in a mansion-sized McDonalds ball pit that he rolls around in every night — shirtless — like Scrooge McDuck, and I don't feel all that sorry.

It's pretty clear, though, that Baby Biebs' (ahem, excuse me, Young Adult Biebs) star is on the swift wane. Not only is the poor kid getting booed off the same stages from which he once received the panties of crazed young ladies, but now the guy can't even get into a club in the Meatpacking District.

And, as anyone who lives in NYC will tell you, any bro with a fat wallet and $30 worth of hair gel on his person can get into a club in the Meatpacking District.

Not Bieber, however, according to a TMZ report. Allegedly, Bieber was turned away for being 19 (understandable), though I'm pretty sure it's because nobody's interested anymore.

It's kind of like when your adorable babies grow into annoying, not adorable teenagers and all you want to do is give them up for adoption, and also not let them into trendy New York bars.

3 Where my money at?

Bankruptcy is so hot right now. Right on the heels of the announcement that Worst Couple in the History of TV, Teresa and Joe Giudice, are facing possible (probable) jail time for 39 counts of fraud and concealing assets during bankruptcy, TMZ reports that former co-star Danielle Staub is also filing for 'ruptcy.

Shocking, right? I'd always sort of assumed that flaunting your conspicuous consumption on a trashy reality show was a really pro way to manage your money and your life.

What's more, rapper/dog aficionado-turned-unfortunate star of his own reality show ("Couples Therapy") DMX is also bankrupt. The one-time super famous rapper, who I don't think makes music anymore, allegedly owes $1.24 million in back child support fees. That's a lot of money to owe for anything, much less taking care of your own flesh and blood. Bad dog.

RAPPER DMX FILMMAGIC

4 Camera-shy guido

Speaking of Joe Giudice, here's another juicy tidbit about everyone's favorite greased up Jersey meatball. Joe, not exactly known for being a paragon of class and decorum (or a guy with a firm grasp on the English language) flew into a rage outside of a Newark courtroom on Tuesday and swatted his big, meaty fists at a photog.

Joe G is such an oaf that he makes the rest of the Jersey Househusbands look like freaking aristocrats, so it's no real surprise that he was unable to restrain his roid rage when a cameraman stuck his lens up in his business.

However, if you're reading this Joe (just kidding, I know he can't read), I would like to opine that public displays of violence while already in trouble with the law is a bad look for you.

TERESA GIUDICE AND HER HUSBAND JOE GIUDICE / GETTY IMAGES

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Celebs. Heisenberg, Cosette and Jason Bourne keep busy

1 Actress **Amanda Seyfried** was shining outside the "Late Show with David Letterman" at the Ed Sullivan Theater on Tuesday in New York City.

2 Series creator **Vince Gilligan joined** Bryan Cranston went onstage for a "Breaking Bad" TimesTalk about the show's final season on Tuesday in New York.

3 Even though age is creeping up on him, **Matt Damon** still looked hot at the "Elysium" New York premiere on Tuesday.

4 Actress Sharon Stone rocked a bouffant at a press conference for her upcoming film "Lovelace" in New York on Tuesday.

5 New grandpa **Prince Charles** held onto a gift for his new grandson, George Alexander, during a visit to the 132nd Sandringham Flower Show at Sandringham House on Wednesday in King's Lynn, England.

6 **Eva Longora** and **Ernesto Arguello** go way back to the days of that horribly short-lived reality show, "Ready for Love," and now they're an item. They were spotted in Marbella on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

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(But, remember, he wasn't always an old ugly man - once, he was just ugly)

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Playtime

Sure, they can be a pain when it comes time to using the bathroom, but rompers have become an essential part of the summer wardrobe. What other item is perfect for sprawling out carefree on a picnic blanket and then totally chic when paired with heels for cocktails at sunset? Here are a few we love.

1 Juicy Couture

Polka-dot romper, $158, www.juicycouture.com

2 Yumi Kim

Liz romper, $196, www.yumikim.com

3 Topshop

Mix jacquard playsuit, $116, www.topshop.com

4 Haute Hippie

Chambray romper, $235, www.shopbop.com

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

5 Samedi

Romper, $88, www.anthropologie.com

6 Motel Mary

Lace romper, $90, www.urbanoutfitters.com

7 ASOS

Romper in tribal print, $47.52, www.asos.com

PLUS

Editor's pick

Yarok Feed Your Sunshine

Our favorite aspects of summer — the pool, the ocean, the sun — can wreak serious havoc on our hair. Toss those elements on top of hair that's been dyed, treated and styled, and you've got a perfect storm for damage. Enter: Feed Your Sunshine serum by Yarok, part of a line of vegan, organic, all-natural hair care products containing responsibly sourced ingredients. The blend of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and oils — found in ingredients like black currant seed oil and organic aloe vera — turned our hair from straw to silk. MEREDITH ENGEL

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Airport touch-ups just got easier

San Francisco-based Benefit Cosmetics is just as loved for its adorable packaging and cheeky slogans as for its high-quality, classic beauty products. Now the makeup brand is taking all its charm and brightening up one of our least favorite places to hang out: the airport. Starting this fall, Benefit will roll out 25 super-cute vending machines in major airports, including JFK, Austin and Las Vegas. Designed to look like vintage pink beauty buses, the kiosks will contain 30 best-selling products that travelers can pick up while rushing to their connections. Got some time to kill before your flight? A graphic user interface shares makeup tips and tricks. METRO/TC

GETTING READY TO GO STEADY

Funky Brown Chick

TWANNA A. HINES, M.S.

AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR AND SEX COLUMNIST. FOLLOW HER ON TWITTER @ FUNKYBROWNCHICK

Being clear and honest about your intentions will make "the talk" much easier. / GETTY IMAGES, POLKA DOT RF

Here's the deal: We have fairly rigid ideas about how to have "the talk." It usually goes something like this: Person X and Person Y hang out. Repeat as necessary. Things begin to feel serious; either X or Y wonders whether or not the relationship is exclusive:

"Hmmm, is my guy/gal seeing other people? Will they be pissed off if I do?"

It's go time to DTR (define the relationship). You have a conversation about couplehood — but there's a problem.

Although we're often confronted by smiling pairs of the opposite-sex and same-ethnicity couples in toothpaste commercials and TV shows, we don't necessarily have strong guidance regarding how to conduct healthy, affirming dialogues about relationships that do not fit neatly inside the one-size boxes that are supposed to fit all relationships. Here's how to talk about monogamy (or non-monogamy) in a way that respects all parties.

Dos and Don'ts

Meeting your ex for a tryst? Talk about it first. / DIGITAL VISION

- **DO** realize you are an important participant in the conversation — so show up! You are most likely to find a partner who will value your desires and intentions when you express them honestly.
- **DON'T** say what you think the other person wants to hear. Say what you mean.
- **DO** acknowledge the difference between privacy and secrecy. Privacy is what you do without your partner's knowledge. Secrecy is willfully keeping information from your partner that should likely be revealed. Fantasizing about having sex with an ex is a private thought. Hooking up with your ex while maintaining a facade of monogamy with your current partner is a secret action.
- **DON'T** forget "the talk" should be an ongoing conversation — things change.
- **DO** be explicitly clear to avoid misunderstandings. For example, if you say you want to "open up" the relationship, discuss whether that means you'll independently see other people or collectively agree to add partners to your relationship.
- **DON'T** assume your partner doesn't share your desires. Maybe they want a monogamous relationship, too. Maybe neither of you do.
- **DO** understand that we often become aware of boundaries only after we've brushed against them. While you or your lover might believe you are comfortable with a particular decision, feelings might change once actions are taken.
- **DON'T** forget that the possibilities are endless. Your relationship can be whatever you and your bed buddy want it to be.

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Toe-mah-toe

Sweet treats

When it comes to vegetable trivia, the fact that tomatoes are fruit is juiciest. The Lite Choice, a froyo spot at 1528 Walnut St. and 135 South St., is taking the concept farther than we're totally comfortable with by using tomatoes as toppings.

The shop just partnered up with Linvilla Orchards of Media, Pa., to offer fresh blackberries, peaches, sweet corn and tomatoes on — or mixed into — its kosher, gluten-free, preservative-free frozen treats. The fruit choices will change each week in August; blackberries are available starting Aug. 1, but you'll have to wait until Aug. 22 for the tomatoes.

1 Percy Street Barbecue

Aug. 6 is National Root Beer Float Day. Soak up the last of the summer suds with Percy Street's $3 floats, concocted from house-made ice cream and root beer from Yards Brewery. Go for the $24 all-you-can-eat ribs if you and your date are both hungry and competitive.
900 South St., 215-625-8510, www.percystreet.com

2 Jamonera

Stretch out your summer with a rendezvous at this tapas spot. Not only do they have three different sangrias to choose from, you can also nosh on the 10-course tasting menu on Sundays.
105 S. 13th St., 215-922-6061, www.jamonerarestaurant.com

Summer fling

We're all thrilled the humidity has let up and we can finally step outside without fear of instant heatstroke. But we also know that means the long lazy nights of summer are nearing their end. So grab your new fling and head to these hot date spots before it's time to bundle up. JULIA WEST

3 Izumi

A shared plate of sushi is an easy, crowd-pleasing kind of date. If you're having a hard time keeping the conversation going (maybe you're distracted by his dreaminess?), sit outside and people-watch.
1601 E. Passyunk Ave. 215-271-1222 www.izumiphilly.com

4 Headhouse Farmers' Market

Impress your date by taking her to a food haven that isn't your typical weekend brunch. Stock up on fresh produce, cheese and baked goods for your own kitchen, then snag a mobile bite from one of the food trucks.
Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 2nd and South streets www.thefoodtrust.org

5 Dock Street

Quick, before the modest outdoor seating gets packed up for the season, get yourself to Dock Street for some dining alfresco. Go for the fig jam pizza and relax with a whiskey shandy. Just watch out — those tasty beverages might sneak up on you and make a memorable date difficult to recall.
701 S. 50th St., 215-726-2337, www.dockstreetbeer.com

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CLIP 'N' SAVE

What to see, buy and eat at the 2nd Street Festival

Folksong. Here's your checklist for what to check out at this annual shindig.

The 2nd Street Festival is taking over NoLibs on Sunday, from noon to 10 p.m. / FACEBOOK

Come for Laser Background, stay for Kala Jojo. / PROVIDED

Northern Liberties is getting in on the summertime block party action with the 2nd Street Festival. Put on by the Philadelphia Folksong Society, the shindig is a full day of music, food and art. The music piece of it is free — and includes Banned Books and Weird Hot — so we already know you're going. But be sure to bring your wallet, because you definitely will want to shop these food and apparel vendors.

Must-try foods

Mac Mart Cart: Mac 'n' cheese is already a beautiful thing, but the Mac Mart Cart takes it to a whole new level. Owner Marti Lieberman has a special stash of add-in ingredients that transform the cheesy pasta dish into a cheesesteak or an entire barbecue.

Dapper Dog: It's hard to miss the distinct stylings of artist Adam Smith on the side of the Dapper Dog truck. That should be your first clue that this is one crafty cart. Dogs are grilled and available with a slew of topping options.

Brown Betty Dessert Boutique: Save room for a cupcake — or two. These decadent, fanciful desserts are reason enough to go to the festival.

Must-buy vendors

Frankadelphia: Show 'em where you're from with original, Philly-themed graphic tees, including one with dear old Benny Franks himself. Make sure to cruise all the vendors, though, as there is no shortage of Philly-pride shirts with clever images, phrases and fonts. Check out The Armadillo Club and Aphillyated.

Little Shop of Dresses: If you're a bride-to-be, you've got weddings on the brain. Luckily for you, you can come hang out with your friends, listen to free music and peep a few ideas for your "something new." This West Girard boutique is stocked with gowns, accessories and handbags for you and your bridesmaids.

Mud & Maker: This is a shop in Pottsville, so make sure not to miss it while it's right here in your backyard. Check out the handmade pottery, rustic home pieces made from reclaimed materials and vibrant kitchen wares.

JULIA WEST
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Southern cuisine served with a twist at The Twisted Tail

Hot Chef. Leo Forneas came back for Philly's "fun and casual" food scene.

Leo Forneas promises not to mess with your grandma's corn bread.
COURTNEY OWENS

Former Sampan chef Leo Forneas left Philadelphia a few years ago to experiment in New York kitchens. Now he's back, and he's somewhere you wouldn't expect to see him: The Twisted Tail in Society Hill, which calls itself a bourbon house and juke joint. Forneas came in, used a determined and guiding hand to revamp the menu and added his own touch to the southern cuisine.

When you got to The Twisted Tail you overhauled the menu. What's that process like?
We researched the concept, went through the whole menu and figured out what southern cooking is all about. I wanted to make it lighter in a sense. I'm not going to change your grandmother's corn bread, but I want to introduce more salad with local ingredients coming from Jersey farms. You read a lot of articles about chefs who learned their trade in New York, then went back to their hometowns and started cooking lighter versions of those staples. You can do the farm-to-table stuff without losing the essence of southern cooking.

Q&A

Anything on the menu that you just had to keep?
The crawfish mac 'n' cheese had to stay. I love mac 'n' cheese — plus it's our No. 1 selling item.

You lived in Philadelphia a few years ago and then you were in New York.

Notice any changes since coming back?
Oh yeah. There are a lot of younger chefs coming in. They're going to bring back that culture of new food. When I opened Sampan, all you heard about was [Stephen] Starr and [Jose] Garces really. Now there are smaller chefs coming up, a younger generation, and that's really cool to see. People can't afford to open a restaurant in New York, so they come to Philly.

And there's a huge difference in the industry between New York and Philly, right?
Yes. In New York, you have to do the best thing ever all the time. It's not fun. Philly's fun and casual. No one's telling you to wear nice jeans or a suit. And Philly is, like, the proudest.

Now that you're back in Philly is there anything that you're making sure you do?
During the summer when I lived here four years ago, I used to go to a farm to pick blueberries. I went a few weeks ago and it was awesome. Until it started raining.

JULIA WEST
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$30-$85, 800-745-3000
www.manncenter.org
Get ready for a boombastic reggae extravaganza. Shaggy, Beres Hammond and Tarrus Riley will perform along with more than 20 additional artists on the Mann's main stage and the new Skyline Stage. Food and arts and crafts vendors will round off this must-do for reggae fans.

Summer Slaughter Tour

Sunday, 2 p.m.
Trocadero Theatre
1003 Arch St.
$30-$32
www.thetroc.com
Metal lovers, your weekend just got some shrapnel in it. The Dillinger Escape Plan, Cattle Decapitation, Periphery, Norma Jean, Animals as Leaders, Rings of Saturn, The Ocean, Revocation and other bands will play in what's being touted as "the most extreme tour of the year."

THEATER

'Wicked'

Tonight-Sunday
Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad St.
$40-$155, 215-893-1999
www.kimmelcenter.org
It's your last weekend to see the story of the witches of Oz in one of Broadway's biggest hits. Find out if the Wicked Witch of the West is really so wicked after all.

COMEDY

Nick DiPaolo

Tonight-Saturday, various times
Helium Comedy Club
2031 Sansom St.
www.heliumcomedy.com
Nick DiPaolo is as funny as he is politically relevant — and politically incorrect. This conservative libertarian comic is a regular on Louie C.K.'s "Louie," though you might recognize him from "The Sopranos" or "Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn."

FOOD

University City Dining Days

Today
University City
$15-$35
www.universitycity.org
Today is the last day to get your fill of dining deals in University City, with almost 30 different restaurants, each offering three courses on the cheap. Challenge your taste buds with fiery fare at Han Dynasty, or go for an Iron Chef's take on Mexican at Jose Garces' Distrito. Also participating are Stephen Starr's POD and Sang Kee Noodle House.

FAIR

The Shakedown Craft Fair

Sunday, noon
The Blockley
3801 Chestnut St.
Donation, 215-222-1234
www.theblockley.com
Arts and crafts vendors will fill one of our favorite music venues. Mark Karan's Buds will bring the noise.
NICK RUSSO

MUSIC

CHECK OUT EVEN MORE:

WWW.METRO.US/PHILADELPHIA/EVENTS

Smooth Jazz Summer Nights

Tomorrow, 7:30 p.m.; fireworks, 9:15 p.m., Great Plaza at Penn's Landing, Chestnut St. and Columbus Blvd., Free, www.delawareriverwaterfront.com
Sunset, smooth jazz and fireworks — what more could you ask for on an August evening? Alex Bugnon, a jazz pianist and composer who's had six albums reach the top 10 on the contemporary jazz charts, will be featured. / DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION

SPORTS

Philadelphia Union vs. Chicago Fire

Saturday, 8 p.m., PPL Park, Chester, 1 Stadium Dr., Chester
www.philadelphiaunion.com
Take a break from Eagles training camp coverage and acknowledge that we have a soccer team. And they're doing very well: The Philadelphia Union are within two points of first place in the Eastern Conference. / GETTY IMAGES

SHOPPING

Vinyl Revival Grand Opening

Aug. 16-17
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ART

'Semiotic Weapons'

Today-Sunday, Arch Enemy Arts, 109 Arch St., Free, 215-717-7774, www.archenemyarts.com
Arch Enemy Arts, voted Philadelphia's best art gallery last year, is putting together a group show with local artists NoseGo, Kat Gun, JoKa, Paul Romano, Michael Michael Motorcycle and more. Also showing is Scott Kirschner's solo show "My Famine," featuring dark, quirky paintings. /ARCH ENEMY ARTS

FOOD

What We Sow

Several events, taking place through October
215-925-3633
www.muralarts.org
The Mural Arts Program and the Food Trust have teamed up for an ongoing celebration of heirloom foods. This weekend show up for the tomato tasting at Farm to City's Rittenhouse Square Farmers' Market, or join Mural, Market, Garden Tour: Southeast Philly. / MAP

We want you

Upload your own events!

Have an upcoming event that you want to let Metro readers know about? Send an email to phillyevents@metro.us and we'll get it on our new listings website.

Listings with shaded backgrounds are sponsored listings.

Horoscope

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Lady Luck is apt to be kinder to you if you're trying to pull off something major, so don't waste time on trivial pursuits.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You should give top priority to developing a second source of income. Chances are you'll be extremely lucky.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Good things could happen if you associate with as many dynamic individuals as you can. Seek companions who are positive and enthusiastic.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Great rewards could come from situations where you draw upon resources of others. Be sure to share the windfall.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Persons with whom you enjoy good social relationships will point you in some interesting directions.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Be persistent when it comes to financial matters, because whatever you touch could turn into gold. These opportunities have good bottom lines.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. If a project in which you're presently involved has been too loosely woven to be effective, take it upon yourself do something.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. You're in a unique cycle where ways can be found to increase your earning potential. However, it'll be up to you to utilize your creativity.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Take advantage of your promotional skills — this is so if you are trying to advance an issue that you feel strongly about.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Let your generosity prevail. It's possible you'll get back twice as much as you give, but perhaps in an unexpected way.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Should you get involved in a group endeavor, chances are you'll be a positive catalyst.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Your instincts to succeed could be more acute than usual, making success for you far more likely once you get a chance to clarify your objectives and motives.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

9				1		7		
	3		7					
7	1				6	2		3
	2				1		4	
	9		5	6	4		1	
	6		8				7	
5		1	9				2	6
					5		9	
		9		4				8

	4	2		3	8		9	
7			6					
	1	3	7				6	
		4	3				5	
	2			5			1	
	7				9	6		
	6				3	5	7	
					5			6
	5		8	1		9	3	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

No jobs for teens

Re: 'How to get your child off the couch and into a summer job' (Metro, July 30) Your article was disappointing and way off the mark. I've been a youth worker for approximately 10 years and we've fought against a steady decline in the number of summer positions available to teenagers. If you'd done a little research, you'd have known this. The "follow these steps" tone of your article is setting teenagers, and their parents, up for failure. Even as our economy tries to recover fully, adults are still give preference in jobs traditionally held by teens, i.e., retail and fast food.

TYROME THOMAS, VIA EMAIL

Weiner's lost the public's trust

Re: 'Of vice and men' (Metro, July 31) I think the letters responding to letter writer Owen Duncan's original statements disregard a key point. Weiner's sexting habit continued after his 2011 resignation, which discredits his apology. Cheaters can certainly still make brilliant public officials, but public office requires a great deal of credibility; Anthony Weiner has lost his.

ANTHONY P. FARRELL, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

New!

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Interactive Crossword

Crossword

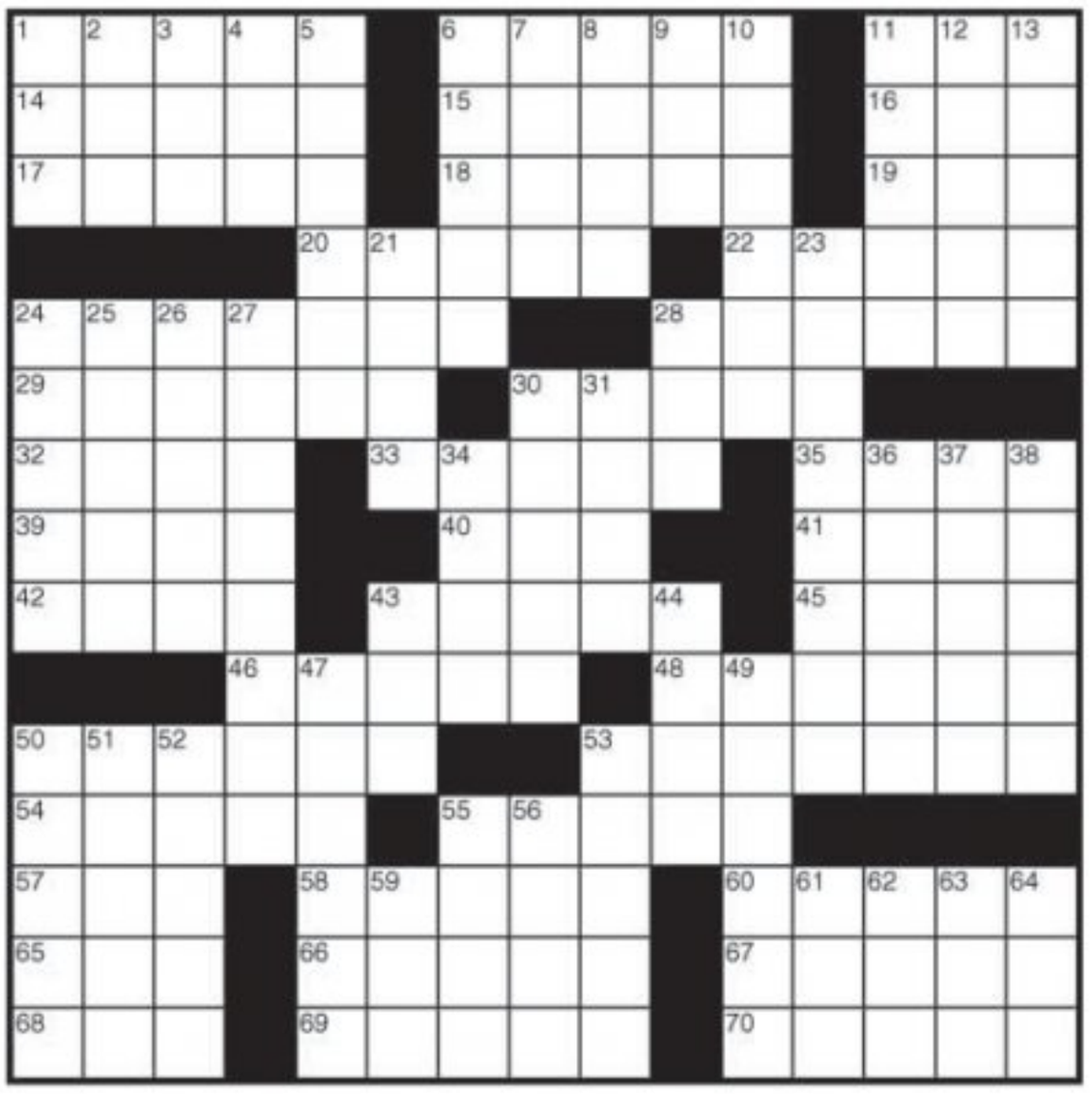
Across

1 Pet shop buy
6 No-fat Jack
11 Water-power org.
14 Loos or Bryant
15 Ms. Massey of old films
16 Farm animal
17 Slugger Rod —
18 A bright star
19 Summer, in Savoie
20 Globe substitute
22 A number of times
24 Laird's music
28 Pina —
29 Spain and Portugal
30 7UP alternative
32 R&B's — Braxton
33 Auditorium guide
35 Loud noises
39 Ancient Dead Sea kingdom
40 Not pro
41 Book jacket part
42 Caboose's spot
43 Panasonic rival
45 Resembling
46 Address the crowd
48 Verified
50 Opinionated
53 Most profound
54 Set jewels, e.g.
55 Mountain pools
57 Frankenstein milieu
58 To the point
60 Chose
65 Size above med.
66 Prince Val's wife
67 Capital of Tibet
68 Da or ja
69 Brief flash
70 Spicy mustard

Down

1 Insect resin
2 Actress — Hartman
3 Balloon filler
4 Sault — Marie
5 Michener novel
6 Edge past
7 Tearful request
8 Howard and Reagan
9 "Wheel of Fortune" buy (2 wds.)
10 Major no-no's
11 Sweater letter
12 Cast a ballot
13 Booster rocket
21 Vulcan high priestess
23 Beach sandal (hyph.)
24 Bad dog
25 Shack or mansion
26 Columbus' port
27 Pale yellow
28 EMT technique
30 Cellular device
31 Counting-out start
34 A word to kitty
36 Pimento holder
37 Rouses up
38 Blew a paycheck
43 Heartrending
44 Raise the lid
47 Kind of sale (2 wds.)
49 Auctioned off
50 — laugh or dance
51 Reflection
52 French clerics
53 Stargaze
55 Leaf source
56 Thin Man's terrier
59 House wing
61 Sorority letter
62 -- Mahal
63 Paul Anka's "— Beso"
64 Karate level

Wednesday's answer



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Phillies remain quiet at trading deadline

MLB. Papelbon, Young and Utley all remained in red pinstripes as the deadline came and went.

Talks heat up

The Phillies are talking to Chase Utley about signing a new deal.

- The two sides have discussed a two- or three-year deal. It would be in the range of $13 million a year, per Cbssports.com.

Major leaguers are well compensated and insulated from the real world, but they are human. When it comes to the trade deadline, they can't help but be distracted.

"It crosses my mind," Hunter Pence said. "There are rumors [that Pence could be dealt], but that's the game."

When Cody Asche was promoted Tuesday, rumors swirled that Michael Young was on his way out of Philadelphia. Well, the solid veteran is still here.

He started on Wednesday against the Giants and slammed his eighth homer on Tuesday in a 7-3 Phillies' win.

"It's nice to get back in front of the home crowd," Young said. "I don't think they held the road trip against us too much."

Young was the most likely candidate to depart when Wednesday's 4 p.m. trade deadline arrived. However, the deadline came and went without any significant moves by the Phils. Young shrugged off any talk of it being a distraction.

"I've been doing this since I was 4," Young said. "Don't get me wrong. I'll be glad when it's over. But I get peace of mind playing."

There was a report that Young was willing to waive his no-trade clause. Instead, the Phillies kept him. The team moved him to first and started Asche at third.

"We didn't bring him up to sit on the bench," said Charlie Manuel, referring to Asche.

ED CONDRAN
sports@metro.us

Young reportedly would have accepted a trade to Boston. / GETTY IMAGES

3 SPORTS

NFL

Eagles QB battle

Mike Vick and Nick Foles took turns guiding the first-team offense at training camp Wednesday. An unofficial tally gave Vick the edge, at least in snaps — he had 33 against 28 for Foles, not all were with the ones. Both quarterbacks looked pretty solid in 7-on-7 and 11-on-11 drills. Rookie Matt Barkley struggled and worked exclusively with the third team.

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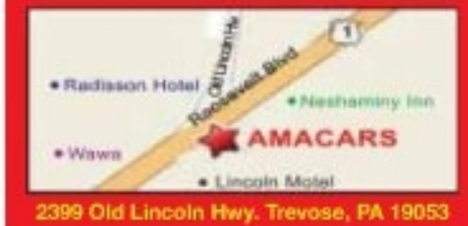

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METRO'S FANTASY GURU BREAKS IT ALL DOWN FOR YOU EVERY WEEK

NFL news

Throughout the spring, "Molasses" Mike Jenkins was the Patriots' starting "X" receiver. Now that camp is here, rookie Aaron Dobson is getting the first-team reps. If he can hang on to that job, he'll emerge as an elite sleeper. Brandon Lloyd played the "X" spot last year and had 130 targets.

CAMP BODIES: UPDATE YOUR FANTASY DEPTH CHARTS AFTER FIRST WAVE OF INJURIES

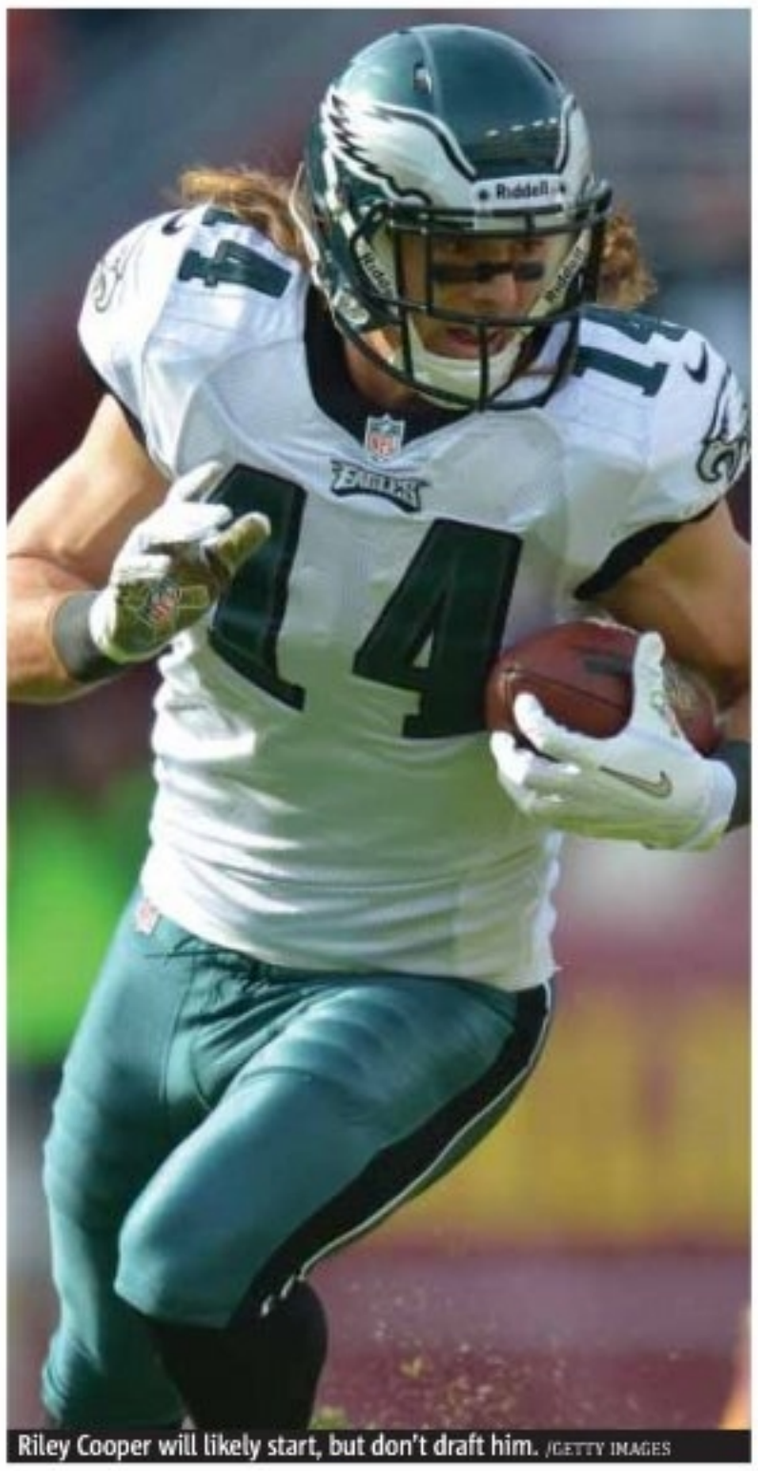
These days, it's a miracle if an NFL player can sustain health for an entire 16-game season. Even getting through training camp is proving to be a tall order.

Camp is only a week old, but we've already had three truly devastating injuries. By the time you draft, your opponents will certainly know not to take these wounded souls. But they won't know how to react.

Eddie Money. I led last week's column by naming Dennis Pitta the most undervalued asset in fantasy. Now, he's out for the year. The Ravens will try to compensate by letting tight end Ed Dickson run more routes, but the problem is that he's shown plodding athleticism.

The bigger beneficiary here will be Torrey Smith, who projects as a target monster. Smith is the only pass-catcher Joe Flacco has any faith in right now. Upgrade him into the fifth round or so.

Golden opportunity. Percy Harvin needs hip surgery. He won't return until Week 13 at the earliest. So, the Seahawks will roll with Golden Tate and Sidney Rice as their wideouts.



Riley Cooper will likely start, but don't draft him. /GETTY IMAGES

Good advice

Riley Cooper will not be playing every down as a featured receiver in a run-heavy offense.

While Rice is declining and dealing with another injury (this time to his knee), Tate is ascending and in a contract year.

He's physical, willing to go over the middle and makes plays after the catch. Sound like Harvin? You bet. Tate has been playing all over the field in camp and is poised for a breakout season.

Hanging with Mr. Cooper. The immediate reaction to Jeremy Maclin's torn ACL will be to peg Riley Cooper as a fantasy sleeper.

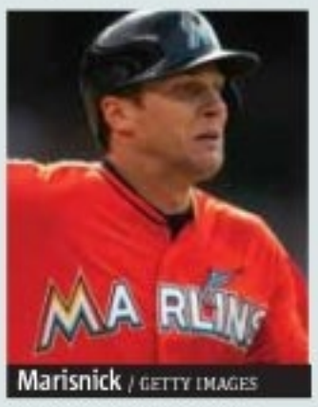
Don't do it.

Although Cooper will start, he'll do so because Chip Kelly likes his physicality (6-foot-3, 222 pounds.). He excels as a run-blocker and he contests 50-50 balls. Cooper will not be playing every down as a featured receiver in an offense that figures to be far more run-heavy than most realize.

MLB pickups

Keep these names in mind if you are looking to tweak your fantasy baseball roster this week:

- **Rex Brothers, RP, Rockies.** Rafael Betancourt is on the DL again, this time due to an appendectomy. Brothers has standalone value as a setup guy anyway (1.24 ERA, 1.15 WHIP).
- **Junior Lake, OF, Cubs.** Swiped 117 bags over 619 minor-league games. Now he's up and playing every day for the rebuilding Cubs.
- **Jake Marisnick, OF, Marlins.** An option for desperate Ryan Braun owners. Marisnick had 12 homers and 11 swipes in 67 Double-A games this season.



Marisnick / GETTY IMAGES

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Soul sets its sights on a return trip to conference final

AFL. The team is set to host Orlando and advance to its second straight American Conference Championship.

The Soul will host a first-round playoff game this weekend. It's kind of bittersweet considering the team had home-field advantage locked up throughout the postseason until stumbling last weekend in San Antonio.

Now, the Soul (12-6) will have to earn it — and against their former coach, no less. They'll take on Doug Plank's Orlando Predators (7-11) Saturday night at the Wells Fargo Center. It's a chance to advance to the American Conference Championship for the second straight season.

"We need to stay focused on our game plans," said Soul coach Clint Dolezel. "We've been down this road before, so we know what we need to do to win. We need to put pressure on [starting quarterback Aaron] Garcia to make mistakes and we need to capitalize. There is no room for mistakes."

Garcia has thrown 84 touchdowns this season. Of course, the Soul will

Jones set records. / GETTY IMAGES

ride the prolific arm of Dan Raudabaugh, who finished with 96 scores and 4,699 passing yards.

The Soul was the third-highest scoring offense in the AFL.

Receiver Tiger Jones is the only player in AFL history to rack up at least 2,000 yards in three straight seasons. He also set franchise records in a single season for receptions (150) and receiving yards (2,121).

The Soul defense is far from shabby, too. The unit is ranked No. 1 in scoring (46.6). They have allowed more than 50 rushing yards in a game only one time this season, while ranking No. 4 in fewest rushing touchdowns allowed.

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Tackle down

Peters has mild strain

Jason Peters left practice early Thursday with a mild right hamstring strain.

Peters, who missed last season with a torn right Achilles, will be evaluated on a day-to-day basis. Eagles coach Chip Kelly said it wasn't serious.

METRO

Unacceptable

Cooper uses racial slur

Riley Cooper issued a statement apologizing for a YouTube video showing him using a racial slur. Cooper used the N-word.

"I owe an apology to the fans and to this community," Cooper said. "I am so ashamed, but there are no excuses."

METRO

Birds' Boykin letting play do the talking

NFL. The corner is impressing with his coverage skills, as he aims to start with Eagles.

Brandon Boykin sees an opportunity. Now, it's time to seize it.

The second-year cornerback has been one of the most impressive guys to watch at Eagles camp. On Wednesday, he raced down the sideline and stuck with Riley Cooper step for step before reaching up to break up a pass.

At last Sunday's practice he nearly made an unbelievable one-handed interception against Greg Salas. He immediately dropped down and did 50 push-ups.

"I had to do 50 push-ups because I got my hands on the ball," Boykin said. "That's something we do as defensive backs."

MICHAEL GREGER
michael.greger@metro.us

Boykin can play nickel or outside. / GETTY IMAGES

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Legal Notices

Notice of Name Change
Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, July term, 2013, No. 003311.

Notice is hereby given that on July 25, 2013, the petition of: Haneef Sakin Nelson was filed, praying for a decree to change Haneef Sakin Nelson name to Hajj-Haneef Sakin Ali.

The Court has fixed court-date, August 20, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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